

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-11 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,484,128 of *Sekiya et al.*

The Examiner has objected to the Title. In response, applicants have amended the Title.

The Examiner has stated that claims 2-4 and 12-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and of claim 2 which the Examiner has stated is allowable. It is therefore submitted that amended claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. In addition, applicants have amended claims 3 and 4 to depend from amended claim 1. Given that amended claims 3-4 depend from amended claim 1 and that claims 5-10 depend from amended claim 1, it is submitted that claims 3-10 are in a condition for allowance.

Similarly, applicants have amended claim 11 to include all of the limitations of claim 11 and of claim 12 which the Examiner has stated is allowable. It is therefore submitted that amended claim 11 is in a condition for allowance. In addition, applicants have amended claims 13 and 14 to depend from amended claim 11. Given that amended claims 13-14 depend from amended claim 11 and that claims 15-20 depend from amended claim 11, it is submitted that claims 13-20 are in a condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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